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ABSTRACT

This book examines two themes and the interplay between them: (1) the future of the university in an era of mass higher education; and (2) social inclusion or exclusion. It is informed by studies its authors made of British and Belgian higher education and by research from their colleagues elsewhere in Europe. Following an introductory chapter that explains the basis for the book, chapter 2 examines ideas about the modern university mainly in Europe and England but recognizes increasing globalization. It notes the changing pressures of rapid transmission of information and mobility of people, as well as the characteristics and behaviors of university staff and students. Chapter 3 analyzes the way a university actually behaves to make itself available to adults, especially nontraditional students. Chapter 4 examines the characteristics of adults who are admitted to universities. Chapter 5 looks at the experience of attending a university from the perspective of adult students and, then, lecturers. Chapter 6 builds on these preceding analyses for a more theoretical consideration of the conditions and strategies for innovation to recruit/accommodate adults for university study. The final chapter reflects upon and makes predictions about the adult university of the future. The book contains 170 references. (KC)

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